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EDUD 732: PLGP 2

Texas Lutheran University

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PLGP 2: My Desired Future Leadership Development State – Heroic Self

I envision my future leadership role as I embark on this journey of helping the community's wounded souls, who need a helping hand the most. As I continue to grow on my leadership path, more insight has come to light recently on conscious and unconscious behaviors that need polishing to exhibit more leadership qualities. Upon taking the Multifactor Leadership Questionnaire, my Transformational Leadership scores were the highest in “Coaches & Develop” and “Acts with Integrity.” These are two leadership factors in my day-to-day interactions with ALL personalities I interact with. It will be a fabulous journey to eventually be hooded in the graduation ceremony on campus at Texas Lutheran University in Seguin, Texas. However, the path appears very promising, judging by the global appraisals I have received from my academic advisor and other professors. I’ve had the privilege of doing coursework for the program.

My Heroic self has risen to the challenge of this task and will continue to work exceedingly hard. Being a person who has not only survived but who is thriving after suffering severe head trauma. The battle of relearning how to walk, talk, and do other everyday activities is quickly taken for granted. I want to press forward with intentionality—doing and “being” at the moment, mindfully with purposeful intent. I am the only licensed professional in the healing arts (LPHA) on my team and serve as the counselor. I primarily work in a leadership and “teacher” role when working daily with clients out in the community. My idea of the Heroic Self would be to work in a Leadership role for a community mental health organization in my home county one day. I want to be in a position to be able to make a lasting impact on my community in a positive way by helping those with serious mental illness live purposeful lives.

Another aspiration I've had over the years is to lead a substance abuse/dual diagnosis treatment center as an executive. I want to accomplish these goals to serve my community as a change agent by setting forth initiatives to promote the greatest good for the individuals and communities I serve.

I am currently working with forensic clients who also have a serious mental illness, such as schizophrenia or schizoaffective disorder, bipolar type, and also have substance use concerns. These are monitored through community supervision by urinalysis tests given to clients by the Travis County probation officer they meet with monthly. The results of the UAs are given to the Travis County prosecution and are part of the biweekly to monthly mental health court proceedings. Some of the clients I work with are the most challenging because of the extent of their circumstances/conditions. I knew I was meeting my goal if my clients would pass their UAs given by community supervision and report to the court, thereby lengthening a client's time between their subsequent court appearances.

As I recently introduced this concept to my practice administrator during my monthly supervision, there are different possibilities for reaching this goal. One is the clients can pass their UAs and satisfy court requirements. If I could receive assistance from my team members, such as forensic and rehab specialists, with extra monitoring and coaching during their weekly interactions, this would significantly help the cause. By being able to help initiate change in clients' substance use habits, I would be able to learn a lot of information along the way concerning the initiatives employed to help clients ultimately reach their goals of not having to attend supervision/court proceedings on an ongoing basis. One of the biggest challenges faced in this arena currently is the relaxed positions taken in recent years of substances, such as

cannabis, and the decriminalization at the municipal and state levels of government while still being classified as a Schedule 1 Drug federally. This causes not only challenges within an agency, but also a community because of mixed messages sent with legalized “THC-A” and other cannabinoids, such as candy, gum, and other edibles sold in many convenience stores nowadays have the wide availability a massive challenge for all who labor in this field.

The knowledge I gain as I forge a pathway for navigating this complicated issue of lessening the effects of cannabis and its derivatives on the treatment of persons with serious mental illness. My mission is to ultimately make our nation a safer, prosperous place by drastically reducing substance use due to proper screening & treatment, education, and involvement with local mental health authorities. We need a wrap-around approach to monitor and work with the population that has severe mental illness. Substance use concerns appear to be increasing by working with this population and focusing squarely on the hindering the effects of cannabis use and the adverse implications the substance can have on the mechanism of proper psychotropic medication in those prescribed psych meds while continuing to use cannabis—usually experiencing adverse consequences medically, financially, mentally, legally, or socially. More research is needed to gain the attention and resources needed to combat the problem effectively. By being able to help lead the way through this crisis in my community, the efforts will be recognized and gain momentum to be used statewide, then nationwide, and ultimately across the globe to help proliferate the vision of “Healthy living for all” and really mean it.